

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, October 4th, 2019, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg, Anne Miller, Amanda Carlson

Members of the public in attendance: Rich Phillips, Michael Cerrulli Billingsly, Bob Atchinson, Allen Banbury, Ed Hutchinson

- Select a facilitator
 - Becky volunteered
- Public comment
 - None.
- Announcements
 - School Board meeting on 11/12. RAMP is on the agenda, anyone who is able to come should come for solidarity.
 - Dam safety workshop is on 11/5 at the Pavilion. Must sign up first.
 - There will be a VT Senate Climate Caucus meeting in Marshfield/Plainfield coming up soon on 11/5 at the Fairbanks Museum at 6pm, and livestream. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heating-vermont-solutions-for-our-health-economy-and-climate-tickets-77570695037>
 - Interesting interview on Joe Gainza's show
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and approved.
- Business
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed) (10 min)
 - Michael is now the main point of contact for the PUC case, due to Sasha having health issues.
 - ANR had reached an arrangement with GMP. Michael raised concerns that safety had not been addressed. The hearing officer called a status meeting asking Plainfield to speak to the safety issues during construction. Sasha did not show up, due to health issues, and Michael assumed she would, so did not show up. The hearing officer gave another chance for Plainfield to speak to their concerns.
 - Michael has now received a list of items from GZA Environmental, dam safety engineers, reviewing the filings related to safety. The questions that were asked regarding safety are largely in line with the questions that Plainfield has asked, which is very encouraging. Michael feels that this engineering firm is likely to hold GMP's feet to the fire regarding the dam safety.
 - Becky worked with the selectboard a bit regarding a warning siren.
 - Bobbi has indicated there is an inundation map that is available in the town clerk's office.
 - Becky has been trying to work with the selectboard about implementing an emergency warning system of some sort. This has been difficult to implement.
 - There was some suggestion about using VT alert for this, and apparently GMP would call VT Alert about this.
 - Michael mentioned that he is trained and authorized to create/issue alerts for VT Alerts. He suggested that Becky or someone else in Marshfield, could get trained for this.
 - Michael mentioned that the VT Alert system is pretty robust, and can email, text, or call a land line. It can also be set up to notify people in a certain region, or in a certain elevation, and warn only those people.
 - Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Nick gave an update on the Energy Task Force:

- Twinfield work is a little bit unclear at the moment. There is a schoolboard meeting on the 12th, which is the next step to try and move things along.
- The wood heat and weatherization efforts are still moving. Current actions are around trying to get incentives shared around a bit more, and get people to sign up for button-up visits.
- Rich asked that if anyone can come to the schoolboard meeting to show support that would be helpful. Still waiting for a time on this. Diana is working on a handout for this. He is also hoping to email the RAMP list and ask for people to visit.
- Rich also mentioned that they're talking about a home visit at his place on 11/16, so they'll need to get moving on some promotion for that.
- Anne gave a brief update on the Transportation Task force. She said they're having trouble getting organized and getting work done. She feels things are a bit confused at the moment, and hoping that get straightened out. 6:30-8:30 at the Plainfield Opera House on Thursday.
- Becky gave a brief update on town centers. The two towns have split up into separate working groups, so Becky can update on Marshfield. This group sent letters to Vtrans with suggestions that they want to see when projects are done.
- Bob mentioned that Becky (his wife) is on the downtown committee for Plainfield. They're working/discussing things related to the blinking light in Plainfield. This is a fraught conversation, so lots more to discuss here.
- VECAN attendance/update
 - A motion was made to fund up to 4x people attending the VECAN conference on 12/7. Seconded and passed.
 - Sounds like Rich, Amanda, Allen, and maybe Anne will go. Bob and Ed are also going.
- Plainfield update
 - The Plainfield Co-Op is waiting to get an audit.
 - Hoping to get a walk-through of the library to assess energy opportunities there.
 - The municipal building is now empty on the second floor, so they are hoping to get a walk-through of this sometime soon.
 - Bob mentioned that Efficiency VT allocates \$10k per town, for RAMP. This is available for municipalities. There is also some money available for non-profits. More information needed on this.
 - Some small amount of work still needed at the Plainfield Opera House.
 - A reminder that they have a thermal camera which can be borrowed.
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